



City of Rockville

MEMORANDUM

July 16, 2008

TO: Cynthia Keeba, Historic Preservation

FROM: Elise Cary, Forestry *EC*

SUBJECT: Fleet Street Property Historic Designation of Single Family Lots

Thank you for including Forestry in your historic designation review of the single-family properties located along the 100 block of Fleet Street. In follow up to our site meeting of July 11, 2008 I am have provided a narrative of the significant trees located on the lots. Please note that although the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) for the Fleet Street project has been submitted and initially reviewed by Forestry, the plan has not been approved. A Preliminary Forest Conservation Plan has not been filed so any comments on whether the concept plan complies with the Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance would be premature.

101 Fleet Street:

This lot contains two trees of significance. The first is a 44" diameter at breast height (DBH) Kentucky Coffeetree in good condition (#5 on the NRI). Although native, Kentucky Coffeetree trees, especially of this size, are rare in Montgomery County and are associated with historic sites. The common name for this tree is derived from the historic use of the seeds that were roasted and used as a coffee substitute.

The second significant tree is a 12" DBH Black Walnut (#6 on the NRI). Although not a large-sized tree, it is native and in very good condition.

103 Fleet Street:

This lot contains another large Kentucky Coffeetree that is 31" DBH and in good condition (#10 on the NRI).

105 Fleet Street:

A large, wide spreading Silver Maple is located in the rear half of this lot. The 51" DBH tree is in fair condition (#17 on the NRI). Forestry believes the tree's condition can be improved through arboriculture practices such as deadwooding, fertilization and cabling. This is the largest tree and likely one of the oldest trees within the Fleet Street project area. The tree is estimated to be around 75 years old.

107 Fleet Street:

This lot contains one of the more unique and significant trees within the project area, a 24" DBH English Walnut (#18 on the NRI). English walnut trees are often associated with historic sites as they were planted for the highly desirable nuts that are now grown and sold commercially. Although the tree is in fair condition, removing the vines growing along the trunk will improve the tree's overall health. Additional arboriculture methods are available and can be employed to further improve the tree's health. The canopy is extremely wide and provides a large area of shade. The tree is generally slow growing and likely over 50 years old.

All of the trees listed above and the majority of their associated critical root zones are located in the rear of the lots. The designation of the entire lots as historic would provide an additional layer of protection for these significant trees. The Forest and Tree Preservation Ordinance encourages the preservation of significant trees and provides a means for receiving forest conservation credit by preserving the critical root zones of significant trees. In conclusion, Forestry supports the preservation of these significant trees.

Cc: Wayne Noll, City Forester
Jim Wasilak, Chief of Planning